

Media Advisory

Secretary of State
State of Louisiana



W. Fox McKeithen
Secretary of State

P.O. BOX 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125
EMAIL:
JENNIFER.MARUSAK@SOS.LOUISIANA.GOV

JENNIFER MARUSAK
DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS
TEL: (225) 342-3598

April 7, 2005

THOMAS, HENRY INDUCTED INTO DELTA MUSIC MUSEUM'S HALL OF FAME

BATON ROUGE, LA -- Irma Thomas and Clarence "Frogman" Henry were inducted into the Delta Music Museum's Hall of Fame April 2. The museum is a state facility managed by Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen's office.

Thomas and Henry had exhibits dedicated to them within the museum and received a star on the museum's "Walk of Fame" sidewalk.

Today, the museum recognizes 14 individuals in its Hall of Fame for their contributions to the town of Ferriday and the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. The inductees include Jimmie Davis, Mickey Gilley, Allen "Puddler" Harris, Clarence "Frogman" Henry, Johnny Horton, Jerry Lee Lewis, Aaron Neville, Percy Sledge, Howard K. Smith, Jimmy Lee Swaggart, Irma Thomas, Conway Twitty, Ann Boyar Warner and Leon "PeeWee" Whittaker.

The Hall of Fame induction drew more than 4,000 visitors to Ferriday for the day-long music festival highlighted by outstanding performances, good food and beautiful weather.

Visitors and locals were entertained by the tunes of local talent, the Louisiana Music Cavalcade All-Stars, Henry and Thomas.

Discovered in a New Orleans Club in 1959, Irma Lee Thomas became a New Orleans icon and one of the most enduring soul survivors in contemporary music. From her early musical influences such as Mahalia Jackson and Pearl Bailey, Thomas produced chart-topping songs such as her debut single, "You Can Have My Husband (But Don't Mess With My Man)." Later, she went on to be a two-time Grammy nominee and the recipient of a Pioneer Award from The Rhythm & Blues Foundation.

His trademark croak earned him the nickname “Frogman” and later with his 1956 smash hit “Ain’t Got No Home,” jump-started his career. Clarence “Frogman” Henry, a rock-and-roll New Orleans legend, began his journey when he joined Bobby Mitchell’s R&B band in 1953. His music has been featured in several movies including Paramount Pictures’ *Forrest Gump*. Henry is still active today on the music scene in New Orleans, drawing sold-out crowds to his legendary performances.

Aside from Thomas and Henry’s performances, this year’s Cavalcade All-Star performers included Tricia Landry, Sean Edwards, Martin Snyder and Faith and Lauren Dorsa. The Cavalcade was formed by Secretary McKeithen to promote Louisiana culture and music by encouraging artists and generating interest in the state’s music heritage. The Louisiana Music Cavalcade is under the direction of previous Hall of Fame inductee Al “Puddler” Harris and funded through the nonprofit Foundation for Louisiana Archives, Museums and Education (F.L.A.M.E.).

The Delta Music Museum opened its doors in 2002. Formerly the U.S. Post Office, the museum sits at 218 Louisiana Ave. in Ferriday, which was previously known as the Ferriday Museum.

The city acquired the property as a purchase/donation from the Ater brothers of Ferriday. Legislation was introduced by Rep. Bryant O. Hammett, Jr. in 2001 to add the museum to Secretary McKeithen’s program. Under this arrangement, the city owns the facility and contributes to the budget, but it is operated by the state.

The building, constructed in 1939-40, has been remodeled to accommodate the museum’s exhibits and includes space for live performances. Many of the building’s original features have been restored and help to create a special nostalgic ambience for visitors. The new museum consists of interpretative and interactive exhibits focusing on the history, music and culture of the Louisiana-Mississippi Delta region.

For more information about the Secretary of State, the Delta Music Museum and Hall of Fame or the Louisiana Music Cavalcade, please visit our website at <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov>.

#####